

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 011649

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-01 IO-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: S/NM:HRWELLMAN

APPROVED BY: S/NM:HRWELLMAN

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R 181957Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011649

VIENTIANE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. HANDLEY

FOLLOWING REPEAT SOFIA 0064 ACTION MUNICH INFO SECSTATE,
BONN, PARIS, DEA HQ WASHDC JAN. 17

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0064

E.O GDS

TAGS: SNAR,BU, GW

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS LIAISON WITH BULGARIA

MUNICH, BONN AND PARIS FOR DEA

REF: A. MUNICH 0076; B. SOFIA 0984; AUGUST 2, 1973

1. BONEV AND TSVETKOV WELCOME VISIT AND SUGGEST
FEBRUARY 19 AND 20 SUITABLE.

2. AT TIME OF CREATION OF DEA QUESTION AROSE WHETHER
OR NOT BULGARS WOULD OBJECT TO WORKING WITH NEW AGENCY.
AT MEETING WITH BULGARIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS (DESCRIBED
REFTEL (B)) THEY MADE CLEAR THEIR VIEW "NO NEW ELEMENTS"
SHOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO LIAISON AND THAT US PERSONNEL
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PAGE 02 STATE 011649

SHOULD BE THOSE FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH BUREAU OF

CUSTOMS.

3. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS REGARDING EGLSEDER CASE, BONEV HAS VERY POLITELY THANKED EMBASSY FOR CONTINUING TO USE CUSTOMS AS LIAISON CHANNEL FOR INFORMATION WITHIN COMPETENCE OF BULGARIAN POLICE OFFICIALS, WITH STRONG IMPLICATION THAT ANY US EFFORTS TO MEET WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICERS INVOLVED WITH NARCOTICS WOULD NOT BE KINDLY REGARDED AT THIS TIME.

4. WE ASSUME THAT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE JOHNSON IS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH BNDD, RATHER THAN CUSTOMS. IF SUCH IS THECASE, JOHNSON'S VISIT TO BULGARIA CANNOT BE APPROVED. PERHAPS AFTER RAKOVSKY AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICER MEET DIRECTLY WITH BONEV AND EXPLAIN NEW STRUCTURE OF DEA, A VISIT BY JOHNSON WILL BE POSSIBLE AND WELCOME BY EMBASSY.

5. EMBASSY AGREES WITH INTEREST IN PARA 2 REFTEL (A) IN EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH NATIONAL POLICE OFFICIALS. THIS, HOWEVER, IS DELICATE QUESTION WHICH WILL NEED TO BE CAREFULLY AND FULLY PREPARED WITH BONEV AND OTHER CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

6. ACCORDINGLY WE HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS FOR RAKOVSKY WITH VIEW TO REVIEWING ENTIRE SITUATION WITH BONEV. IF MEETINGS ARE SUCCESSFUL, EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME NOT ONLY VISIT BY JOHNSON, BUT OTHER PERSONNEL AT A LATER DATE. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT MAY CAUSE SOME DIFFICULTY, WE BELIEVE IT IS BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW WITHOUT RISKING PRESENT LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS. BATJER

UNQUOTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE011649
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/NM:HRWELLMAN
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740131/aaaabczy.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MUNICH 0076; B. SOFIA 0984; AUGUS, T 2, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS LIAISON WITH BULGARIA MUNICH, BONN AND PARIS FOR DEA
TAGS: SNAR, BU, GE
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005